d. Multiple complex care needs that in combination exceed care needs usually provided in a nursing facility (for example, variable gastrostomy/nasogastric/jejunostomy feedings with documented aspiration risk; complicated medication regimen requiring titration of meds and/or frequent lab monitoring to determine dosage; multiple skilled nursing services such as intermittent urinary catheterizations, sterile dressing changes, strict intake/output monitoring, intravenous medications, hyperalimentation or other special treatments).

12-014.01D: The revised admission criteria does not apply to clients admitted before the effective date of these regulations.

12-014.01E Exception: Under extenuating circumstances, the Director of Finance and Support may approve an exception to the criteria for care of long term care clients with special needs based on recommendations of HHSS staff.

12-014.02 Facility Qualifications: To be approved as a provider of services for LTC clients with special needs, a Nebraska facility providing services to special needs clients must be licensed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure as a hospital or a nursing facility and be certified to participate in the Nebraska Medical Assistance Program (42 CFR 483, Subpart B). Out-of-state facilities must meet licensure and certification requirements of that state's survey agency. Out-of-state placement of clients will only be considered when their special needs services are not available within the State of Nebraska (see 471 NAC 1-002.02G).

The facility must demonstrate the capacity/capability to provide highly skilled multi-disciplinary care. The facility must ensure that its professional nursing staff have received appropriate training and have experience in the area of care pertinent to the individual client's special needs (such as ventilator dependent). The facility must have the ability to provide the necessary professional services as the client requires (such as respiratory care available 24 hours per day, seven days a week).

The facility must –

1. Demonstrate the capability to provide highly skilled multidisciplinary care;
2. Ensure that its staff have received appropriate training and are competent to care for the identified special needs population that is being served (for example, ventilator dependent, brain injury, complex medical/rehabilitation, complex medical pediatrics);

3. Be able to provide the necessary professional services that the special needs clients require (for example, respiratory therapy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week);
4. Have the physical plant adaptations necessary to meet the client's special needs (for example, emergency electrical back-up systems);
5. Establish admission criteria and discharge plans specific to each special needs population being served;
6. Have a separate and distinct unit for the special needs program;
7. Establish written special program criteria with policy and procedures to meet the needs of an identified special needs group as defined in 471 NAC 12-014.01;
8. Have written policies specific to the special needs unit regarding:
   a. Emergency resuscitation;
   b. Fire and natural disaster procedures;
   c. Emergency electrical back-up systems;
   d. Equipment failure (e.g.: ventilator malfunction);
   e. Routine and emergency laboratory and/or radiology services; and
   f. Emergency transportation.
9. Maintain the following documentation for special needs clients:
   a. A comprehensive multidisciplinary and individualized assessment of the client's needs before admission. The client's needs dictate which disciplines are involved with the assessment process. The assessment must include written identification of the client's needs that qualify the client for the special program as defined in 471 NAC 12-014.01. The initial assessment and the team's review and decisions for care must be retained in the client's permanent record. (see 471 NAC 12-014.03A);
   b. A copy of the admission "MDS 2.0 Basic Assessment Tracking Form" (Minimum Data Set), and Form DPI-OBRA1, "Identification Screen". These are to be maintained as part of the client's permanent record;
   c. A minimum of daily documentation or assessment and/or intervention by a Registered Nurse or other professional staff as dictated by the client's needs (e.g., Respiratory Therapy, Occupational or Physical therapy);
   d. A record of physician's visits; and
   e. A record of interdisciplinary team meetings to evaluate the client's response and success toward achieving the identified program goals and the team's revisions/additions/deletions to the established program plan (see 471 NAC 12-014.03D);
10. Maintain financial records in accordance with 471 NAC 12-011 and 12-012; and
11. Provide support services necessary to meet the care needs of each individual client and these must be provided under existing contracts or by facility staff as required by Medicare/Medicaid (42 CFR 483, Subpart B) for nursing facility certification (for example, respiratory, speech, physical or occupational therapies, psychiatric or social services).

12-014.03 Approval Process: NMAP pays for a special need nursing facility service as defined in 471 NAC 12-014 when prior authorized by the designated program specialist in the Central Office. Each admission shall be individually prior authorized.

12-014.03A Prior to Admission: A written comprehensive and individualized assessment completed by the facility must be sent to the Central Office. The assessment and accompanying documentation must address how the client meets the criteria for special needs care as defined in 471 NAC 12-014.01. It is the facility's responsibility to assess, gather and obtain this information and submit it to the Central Office for prior authorization and before admission.

Initial approval/denial will be given after Medicaid staff reviews the submitted information. It is the facility's responsibility to obtain and provide any missing or additional information requested by the Central Office. The initial approval will be delayed until all information is received by the Central Office staff. The Pre-Admission Screening Level I Evaluation (see 471 NAC 12-004.04) and Level II Evaluation, when applicable (see 471 NAC 12-004.08), must be completed before admission and the Level II findings/reports must accompany the packet of information sent to the Central Office for funding authorization.

12-014.03A1 Facilities serving the needs of individuals who are ventilator-dependent and other special needs clients (see 471 NAC 12-014.01A and 12-014.01C) must include the individualized admission assessment completed by the facility and other documentation which must include but is not limited to:

1. Current medical information that documents the client's current care needs;
2. Historical information that impacts the client's care needs;
3. Discharge summary(ies) of any facility stay(s) within the past 6 months;
4. Current physical/cognitive/behavioral status;
5. Justification for special needs level of care; and
6. Identification of major areas of preliminary care planning (an estimate of services needed to reach the proposed goals).

12-014.03A2 Facilities serving the needs of clients with brain injuries (see 471 NAC 12-014.01B) shall submit the individualized admission assessment completed by the facility and the following documentation which must include but is not limited to:

1. Current medical information that documents the client's current care needs, including a letter from the client's primary care physician indicating the potential for successful rehabilitation;
2. Historical information that impacts the client's care needs;
3. Discharge summaries of any facility stay(s) within the past year;
4. All discharge/service summaries of any rehabilitative (inpatient and outpatient) services received since the qualifying injury;
5. An Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) of any client under age 21 if one exists;
6. An Individual Program Plan and discharge statement/meeting for any client receiving or who has received services from the Developmental Disabilities System since the qualifying injury;
7. The written plan from Vocational Rehabilitative services if the client is receiving or has received since the qualifying injury;
8. Current physical/cognitive/behavior status; and
9. Identification of major areas of preliminary care planning (an estimate of services needed to reach the proposed goals).

12-014.03B Initial Approval: Based on the pre-admission assessment, initial approval/denial will be given by the Central Office staff for a 90-day admission, for assessment and development of a special needs plan of care. During this 90-day period, the individual will be receiving special needs care for the purposes of determining the potential for benefit from longer-term participation in the special needs program. At the end of 30 days, the Central Office will be provided a special needs formal plan of care, developed by the full interdisciplinary team. By the end of the 60th day, a report will be provided to the Central Office establishing demonstrated potential to benefit from the additional special needs programming, and estimating the time needed to complete the special needs plan of care, or recommendations to a lesser level of care.

12-014.03B1 In-State Facility Placement: Within 15 days of the date of admission to the nursing facility or the date Medicaid eligibility is determined, facility staff shall (see 471 NAC 12-007) -

1. Complete an admission Form MC-9-NF as required by 471 NAC 12-006.02C (the facility is responsible for verifying the client's Medicaid eligibility before completion of the MC-9-NF);
2. Attach a copy of Form DM-5 or physician's history and physical;
3. Attach a copy of Form DPI-OBRA1; and
4. Submit all information to the Central office.

Facility staff must make a comprehensive assessment of the resident's needs within 14 days of admission using the Minimum Data Set (MDS) 2.0, and transmit it electronically to the Central Office in accordance with 42 CFR 483.20.

The HHSS review team shall determine final approval for the level of care and return the forms to the local office and the facility. Approval of payment may be time limited.

12-014.03B2 Out-of-State Facility Placement: Within 15 days of the date of admission to the nursing facility or the date Medicaid eligibility is determined, facility staff shall (see 471 NAC 12-007) -

1. Complete an admission Form MC-9-NF as required by 471 NAC 12-006.01C (the facility is responsible for verifying the client's Medicaid eligibility prior to completion of the MC-9-NF);
2. Attach a copy of Form DM-5 or physician's history and physical;
3. Attach a copy of Form DPI-OBRA1 (where applicable);
4. Attach a copy of their state-approved MDS; and
5. Submit all information to the Central Office.

The HHSS review team shall determine final approval for the level of care and return the forms to the local office and the facility. Approval of payment may be time-limited.

12-014.04 Utilization Review: HHSS will review records and programs established for authorized Medicaid client stays in a Special Needs program on a quarterly basis. These reviews can be conducted on-site or by submitting requested documentation to the HHSS. Upon completion of the utilization review, HHSS may determine that a client no longer meets the criteria as established in 471 NAC 12-014.01. The HHSS will notify the facility in writing of this finding. Examples of conditions for termination of special needs payment include but are not limited to:

1. The client has medically, physically, or psychologically regressed and cannot participate in the established program documented for at least one month duration;
2. The client refuses to participate in the established program for a documented time of at least one month;
3. The client no longer has documented progress toward established program goals and/or the client's progress has reached a plateau with no documented progress for at least three months (maintenance goals do not qualify the client to continue the program);
4. The client no longer meets criteria as defined in 471 NAC 12-014 that pertains to his/her specific program needs (for example, ventilator use, complex care needs are resolved, pediatric client turns 22).

12-014.04A Comprehensive Plan of Care: The facility shall submit copies of the initial comprehensive plan of care and subsequent interdisciplinary team meetings (see 471 NAC 12-014.02, item 9e) that document the client's progress/lack of progress toward the client's established program outcomes/goals to the Medicaid Central Office quarterly.

12-014.04B: NMAP will require monthly reviews for extended brain injury rehabilitation stays beyond two years.

12-014.04C Right to Contest a Decision: See 471 NAC 2-003.01.

12-014.05 Payment for Services for Long Term Clients with Special Needs: Payment for services to all special needs clients shall be prior authorized by Department staff in the Central Office.

12-014.05A Nebraska Facilities: To establish a Nebraska facility's payment rate for care of special needs clients -

1. The facility shall submit Form FA-66, "Long Term Care Cost Report," to the Department for each fiscal year ending June 30. Medicare cost reporting forms may be substituted when Form FA-66 is not otherwise required to be submitted. Form FA-66 must be completed in accordance with 471 NAC 12-012, Completion of Form FA-66, "Long Term Care Cost Report," and 471 NAC 12-011 ff., Rates for Nursing Facility Services, as applicable. Medicare cost reports must be completed in accordance with Medicare's Provider Reimbursement Manual (HIM-15). If the facility provides both nursing facility services and special needs services, direct accounting and/or cost allocations necessary to distribute costs between the nursing facility and the special needs unit must be approved by the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support Long Term Care Audit Unit.
2. The Department shall compute the allowable cost per day from Form FA-66 or the Medicare cost report, as applicable, which will be the basis from which a prospective rate is negotiated, effective for the following calendar year rate period. Negotiations may include, but are not limited to, discussion of appropriate inflation/deflation expectations for the rate period and significant increases/decreases in the cost of providing services that are not reflected in the applicable cost report. The cost of services generally included in the allowable per diem include, but are not limited to -
   a. Room and board;
   b. Preadmission and admission assessments;
   c. All direct and indirect nursing services;
   d. All nursing supplies, to include trach tube and related trach care supplies, catheters, etc.;
   e. All routine equipment, to include suction machine, IV poles, etc.;
   f. Oxygen and related supplies;
   g. Psycho-social services;
   h. Therapeutic recreational services;
   j. Administrative costs;
   k. Plant operations;
   l. Laundry and linen supplies;
   m. Dietary services, to include tube feeding supplies and pumps;
   n. Housekeeping; and
   o. Medical records.

Services not commonly included in the per diem (unless specifically provided via the facility's contract) include, but are not limited to -

a. Speech therapy;
b. Occupational therapy;
c. Physical therapy;
d. Pharmacy;
e. Audiological services;
f. Laboratory services;
g. X-ray services;
h. Physician services; and
j. Dental services;

These services are reimburse under the Department's established guidelines. Costs of services and items which are covered under Medicare Part B for Medicare-eligible clients must be identified as an unallowable cost.

3. If the facility has no prior cost experience in providing special needs services, the facility shall submit a budget for the provision of the intended service. The Department must concur that the budgeted cost per day meets a reasonable expectation of the cost of providing said service, taking into account the cost per day of similar facilities providing similar services. Budgets will be used until the facility has at least six months of actual cost experience.
4. An incentive factor calculated at eight per cent of allowable costs is added to the allowable costs of proprietary facilities. An incentive factor calculated at four percent of allowable costs is added to the allowable costs of other than propriety facilities;
5. After a rate is agreed upon, the Department and the provider shall enter into a contract. The contract, written by the Department, must include -
   a. The rate and its applicable dates;
   b. A description of the criteria for care;
   c. A full description of the services to be provided under the established per diem as well as any services that are not provided under the per diem and are billed separately; and

d. Other applicable requirements that are necessary to be included in all Department contracts.
The contract must be signed by both parties before payments may be made for any services provided by the facility.

6. In lieu of the rate establishment procedure described in this section and under mutual agreement of both the provider and the Department, a multi-year contractual arrangement may be entered into by the parties. Reimbursement shall reflect the facility's actual reasonable cost of providing services to special needs clients and shall be updated annually using an appropriate inflation adjustment.

12-014.05B Out-of-State Facilities: The Department pays out-of-state facilities participating in NMAP at a rate established by that state's Medicaid program at the time of the establishment of the Nebraska Medicaid provider agreement. The payment is not subject to any type of adjustment.

12-014.05C Payment for Bed-Hold: Payment for bed-hold for hospitalization and/or therapeutic leave shall be as defined in 471 NAC 12-009.07.

12-014.06: The requirements of 471 NAC 12 apply to services provided under 471 NAC 12-014 unless otherwise specified in 471 NAC 12-014.

31-008 Payment for ICF/MR Services

31-008.01 Purpose: This section -

1. Satisfies the requirements of the State Plan for Medical Assistance and 42 CFR 447, Subpart C, which provide for payment of ICF/MR services;
2. Adopts rate setting procedures which recognize the required level and quality of care as prescribed by all governmental entities (including, but not limited to, federal, state, and local entities);
3. Establishes effective accountability for the disbursement of Medical Assistance appropriations; and
4. Provides for public notice of changes in the statewide method or level of payment pursuant to the requirements of Section 1902(a)(13) of the Social Security Act.

The rate determination described herein is effective beginning September 1, 2003.

31-008.02 General Information: Wherever applicable, the principles of reimbursement for provider's cost and the related policies under which the Medicare extended care facility program functions (Medicare's Provider Reimbursement Manual (HIM-15) updated by "Provider Reimbursement Manual Revisions" in effect as July 1, 2000) are used in determining the cost for Nebraska ICF/MRs with exceptions noted in this section. Chapter 15, Change of Ownership, of HIM-15 is excluded in its entirety.

That portion of a provider's allowable cost for the treatment of Medicaid patients is payable under the Nebraska Medical Assistance Program (NMAP) except as limited in this section. The aggregate payments by the Department do not exceed amounts which would be paid under Title XVIII principles of reimbursement for extended care facilities.

31-008.03 Allowable Costs: The following items are allowable costs under NMAP.

31-008.03A Cost of Meeting Licensure and Certification Standards: Allowable costs for meeting licensure and certification standards are those costs incurred in order to -

1. Meet the definition in 42 CFR 440.150;
2. Comply with the standards prescribed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 42 CFR 442;
3. Comply with requirements established by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services System, the agency responsible for establishing and maintaining health standards, under 42 CFR 431.610; and
4. Comply with any other state law licensing requirements necessary for providing skilled nursing or intermediate care facility, as applicable.

31-008.03B Items Included in Per Diem Rates: The following items are included in the per diem rate: